



Home Care Services

HomeMed ▪ MedEQUIP ▪ Wheelchair Seating Service

**1-800-862-2731****Administration of Meropenem 2 Grams**Drug Name: Meropenem 2 grams

Dosage: 2grams every \_\_\_\_\_ hours over 10 minutes

**Key Points:**

1. Always wash your hands with an antibacterial soap for 15 seconds or use an antiseptic hand gel before any procedure. Do not touch anything dirty, such as your clothes, glasses or skin after washing your hands. If you do, rewash them.
2. Always check the label for your name, correct drug name, correct dose and how frequently the drug should be given. If the information does not match, contact HomeMed immediately.
3. Check the syringes for leaks, expiration dates, color changes and floating materials. If these occur, set aside and use another. Notify HomeMed.
4. Work at a comfortable pace. The risk of contamination increases if you rush.

<b>FLUSHING:</b> <b>Saline</b> <b>Meropenem</b> <b>Saline</b> <b>Heparin</b>
--

**Supplies:**

- (2) Vials Meropenem **1 gram each**
- (2) Vials sterile water
- (4) 30 mL syringes
- (4) Sharp needles
- (2) Prefilled Saline flush syringes (remove from package)
- (1) Prefilled heparin flush syringe (remove from package)
- (3) Blunt needles
- (6) Alcohol wipes
- Household disinfectant or alcohol
- Antibacterial soap
- Paper towel

**Procedure:**

1. Place a trash can next to your work area.

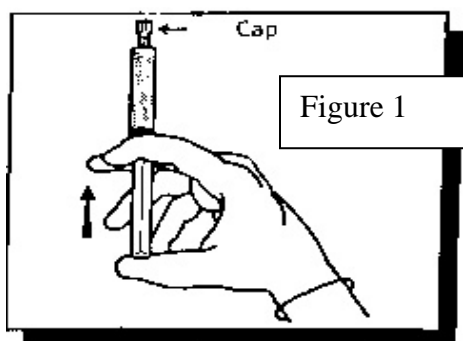
<b>Wash your hands</b>
----------------------------



2. Wash your hands by first wetting your hands and wrists under running water. Scrub vigorously with antibacterial soap for 15 seconds. Work lather between fingers, under nails, over the palms and back of hands. Rinse hands well by keeping your fingers pointing up towards the ceiling so that the dirty water runs toward your elbows. Dry your hands with a clean paper towel from tips of fingers down. Turn off the faucet with the paper towel.
3. Gather your supplies and place in a corner of your work area.
4. Place a clean paper towel on your work surface or clean it with a household cleaner. Let the area air dry.
5. Place the supplies on your clean work area.

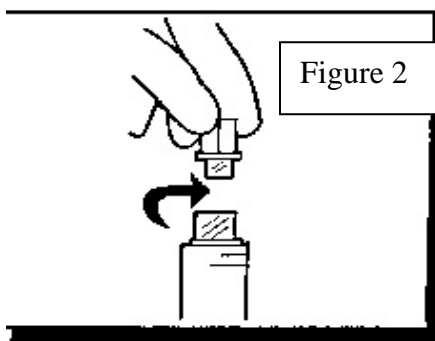
### PREPARING YOUR HEPARIN LOCK & SALINE SYRINGES

1. Hold the prefilled heparin syringe upward (figure 1).
2. **Do not remove the cap.** Press on the plunger (figure 1). **DO NOT** pull back on the plunger.
3. Remove the protective cap from the end of the prefilled heparin syringe (figure 2).

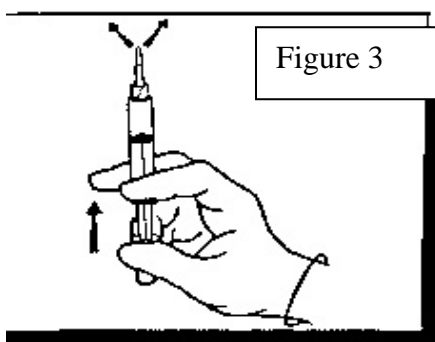


4. Attach a blunt needle to the syringe by:

Twisting the green cap off the blunt needle. Attach the needle to the syringe by turning the needle clockwise. Do not remove the gray cap that protects the blunt needle.



5. Hold the syringe with the needle pointing upward. If bubbles appear, gently tap the sides of the syringe. The bubbles will rise to the top of the syringe.
6. Push the plunger to remove all the air out of the syringe (figure 3).
7. Prepare your 2 saline syringes by repeating steps 1 through 6.



## **TO PREPARE MEROPENEM**

1. Remove the flat disk cover from the top of the sterile water and Meropenem vials. **Vigorously** scrub the top of the vials with an alcohol wipe.
2. Open the needle packages. Attach a sharp needle to the end of each of the 30 mL syringes. Make sure not to touch the end of the syringe or the opened end of the needle. Connect the needle to the syringe by turning the needle clockwise. **Do not remove protective cap from needle.**
3. Using one of the syringes. Draw the syringe plunger back to 20 mL.
4. Remove the needle cap and inject 20mL air into sterile water vial.
5. Withdraw 20 mL sterile water from vial.
6. Inject 20 mL sterile water into Meropenem vial.
7. Remove syringe from vial.
8. Gently agitate vial to thoroughly mix powder and sterile water. Inspect for any undissolved particles.
9. Using a new syringe.
10. Draw syringe plunger back to 20 mL.
11. **Vigorously** scrub the top of Meropenem vial with an alcohol pad.
12. Remove the needle cap and inject air into vial of Meropenem vial.
13. Withdraw entire contents of vial (20 mL).
14. Remove sharp needle and replace with blunt needle.
15. Repeat steps 1-14 with second vial of Meropenem
16. You should now have (2) 30 mL syringes with **20** mLs in each. Your total dose of Meropenem should be **2 grams in 40 mLs.**

## **STARTING YOUR MEDICATION**

1. Unclamp your catheter.
2. **Vigorously** scrub the end of the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.
3. Remove the gray protective covering from the blunt needle of your **saline** syringe.
4. Insert the blunt needle of the saline syringe into the catheter cap and inject the saline solution with a pumping action. When you have completed the 5 mL saline flush, remove the needle and syringe from your catheter.
5. **Vigorously** scrub the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.

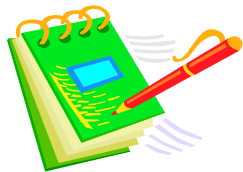
6. Remove the protective covering from the blunt needle of your medication syringe.
7. Insert the medication syringe into the catheter cap.
8. Push on the syringe plunger and inject **4 mLs every 60 seconds**.
9. After you have injected all your medication, remove the medication syringe.
10. **Vigorously** scrub the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.
11. Remove the protective covering from the blunt needle of your second Meropenem syringe.
12. Insert the blunt needle into the catheter cap.
13. Push on the syringe plunger and inject **4 mLs every 60 seconds**.

### STOPPING YOUR MEDICATION

1. After you have injected all your medication, remove the medication syringe.
2. **Vigorously** scrub the end of the cap on your catheter with an alcohol wipe.
3. Insert the blunt needle of the **saline** syringe into the catheter cap and inject the saline solution with a pumping action. . When you have completed the 5 mL saline flush, remove the needle and syringe from your catheter.
4. **Vigorously** scrub the end of the cap of your catheter with an alcohol wipe.
5. Remove the protective covering from the blunt needle of your **heparin** syringe.
6. Insert the blunt needle of the heparin flush syringe into the catheter cap and inject the heparin solution with a pumping action. When 0.5 mL remains in the syringe, gently push forward on the syringe plunger while clamping the catheter (“Pump-pump-push and clamp”).
7. Dispose of the used syringes in your sharps container.



## FAST FACTS



### **Organize yourself!**

Wash your hands

Prepare Meropenem

Attach blunt needles to 2 saline 1 heparin & your medication syringes

Flush catheter with saline

Push medication: Meropenem  
4 mL every 60 seconds (2 syringes)  
20 mLs in each

Flush catheter with saline

Flush catheter with heparin

### **Catheter flushing:**

Flush with 5 mL of saline  
Inject Meropenem  
Flush with 5 mL of saline  
Flush with 5 mL of heparin

### **Resource numbers:**

Call HomeMed if you have questions or if the instructions are unclear to you. Our 24 hour number is:



**1-800-862-2731**

### **If you wish to use an antiseptic hand lotion or gel:**

Do **NOT** use if your hands are visibly soiled or have body fluids (such as blood) on them

Off-brand hand gels can be less expensive

Always check the label for the gel or lotion to contain either ethyl alcohol (ethanol), normal propyl alcohol (n-propyl) or isopropyl alcohol in concentrations between 60-90%